

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 IO-13 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15

ICA-11 HA-05 /082 W

-----030887 011915Z /45

R 010730Z AUG 78

FM AMEMBASSY MBABANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5337

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE MBABANE 2616

FROM AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, SF, WZ

SUBJECT: SOUTH AFRICAN POLICE METHODS

REF: MBABANE 2617

1. UNDP HEAD FOR AFRICA MICHEL DOO KINGUE AND UNDP RES
REP FOR SWAZILAND SHAHID HASAIN RELATED TO ME IN MBABANE
JULY 22 UNDP'S INVOLVEMENT IN THE DEATH OF SAMUEL SHABANGU,
DEPUTY REGISTRAR OF THE EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL FOR THE BLS
COUNTRIES, WHO DIED WHILE IN CUSTODY OF SOUTH AFRICAN
AUTHORITIES AFTER HAVING BEEN PICKED UP EN ROUTE TO BLS
EXAMINATIONS COUNCIL MEETING IN LESOTHO.

2. UNDP RES REP HUSSAIN, AT DOO KINGUE'S SUGGESTION,
BRIEFED ME ON UNDP INVOLVEMENT, WHICH CONSISTED OF
BRINGING IN AN OUTSIDE DOCTOR TO ASSIST SWAZI PHYSICIAN
IN PERFORMING AUTHOPSY ON SHABANGU. ACCORDING TO THE
REPORT, SHABANGU SHOWED SIGNS OF BODILY INJURY THAT
INDICATED HE HAD BEEN OBJECT OF VIOLENCE THAT COULD HAVE
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CAUSED DEATH. IN ADDITION, TO THE AMAZEMENT OF THOSE IN
CHARGE OF THE AUTOPSY, VARIOUS ORGANS (E.G. KIDNEY) HAD
BEEN REMOVED AND EXTRANEIOUS MATERIAL WAS FOUND IN THE
BODY, I.E., A PIECE OF WOOD AND A PIECE OF PAPER.
THIS ASPECT OF THE AUTOPSY REPORT WAS CONFIRMED TO ME
IN CHANCE CONVERSATION BY BOTSWANA PERMSEC IN MINISTRY
OF HEALTH ON JULY 30.

3. REACTION OF UNDP OFFICIALS DOO KINGUE AND HUSAIN WAS ONE OF INDIGNATION AND ASTONISHMENT THAT GOS WOULD BE SO PROTECTIVE OF RELATIONS WITH RSA THAT THEY HAVE DECIDED TO WITHHOLD THE REPORT AND APPARENTLY REFRAIN FROM ANY PROTEST TO RSA. GOS HAS EVEN DECLINED THE SUGGESTION TO LEAK THE REPORT TO THE MEDIA.

4. ONLY PUBLIC GOS REACTION TO INCIDENT WAS STATEMENT ISSUED JUNE 30 (REFTEL) AFTER SHABANGU'S DEATH ON JUNE 27 BUT BEFORE UN-ASSISTED AUTOPSY.

5. COMMENT: DOO KINGUE FELT FACTS IN THIS CASE WERE BEYOND DISPUTE. HIS ATTITUDE TOWARDS GOS WAS CLEARLY CONDITIONED IN NEGATIVE SENSE BY THIS EVENT. ONE EFFECT SEEMED TO BE THAT HE WILL LOOK MORE SKEPTICALLY AT GOS DEVELOPMENT PLANS. EVENT ALSO PLANTED SERIOUS DOUBT IN HIS MIND ABOUT WISDOM OF GOS COMPLIANT POLICY AND ATTITUDE TOWARD SOUTH AFRICA.
WACHOB

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Message Attributes

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